Message Text

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DEPT PLEASE PASS EPA FOR WARD

E.O.11652: GDS TAGS: CCMS, NATO SUBJECT: CCMS - BACKGROUND ON BRITISH DEMARCHE

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REF: USNATO 7523

1. UK CCMS OFFICER (POWLES), IN CONVERSATION WITH MISSION CCMS OFFICER, HAS PROVIDED BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON UK DEMARCHE REPORTED IN REFTEL. AMBASSADOR KILLICK'S APPROACH TO CHARGE WAS PROMPTED BY A MEMO POWLES HAD DRAFTED IN ANTICIPATION OF HIS SEPTEMBER TRANSFER. IN MEMO, POWLES ATTEMPTED TO FORESEE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS THAT HIS SUCCESSOR MIGHT FACE. SERIOUS PROBLEM, IN POWLES' VIEW, MIGHT ARISE IF UK MINISTRIES FACED FURTHER BUDGETARY CUTBACKS AND IF WORK PROGRAMS OF VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED TO OVERTAX MANPOWER CAPABILITIES OF UK EXPERTS. LONDON WOULD THEN HAVE TO TAKE A HARD LOOK AT ITS INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES WITH AIM OF ELIMINATING PROJECTS OF LOW PRIORITY. POWLES FEARED THAT SOME UK EXPERTS WOULD PREFER TO DEVOTE THEIR EFFORTS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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ORGANIZATIONS WITH PERMANENT MANDATES TO WORK ON SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OR IN CERTAIN SECTORS--RATHER THAN ENGAGE IN CCMS PILOT STUDIES.

2. UK DELEGATION BELIEVES CCMS' STRONGEST POINT IS THE POLITICAL COMMITMENT NATO MADE TO INTENSIFY COOPERATION ON NON-DEFENSE MATTERS (AS CALLED FOR IN ARTICLE TWO OF THE

ATLANTIC CHARTER) WHEN IT ESTABLISHED THE COMMITTEE. THUS, AMBASSADOR KILLICK ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED ARGUMENTS MADE BY CHARGE.

3. POWLES REGRETTED THAT HIS DELEGATION RAISED THIS PROBLEM BEFORE MATTERS HAD COME TO A HEAD IN LONDON. HE DID NOT WISH, HOWEVER, TO HAVE HIS SUCCESSOR SURPRISED BY AN ISSUE ON WHICH HE MIGHT LACK SUFFICIENT BACKGROUND TO COUNTER POSSIBLE EFFORTS IN LONDON TO REDUCE UK INVOLVEMENT IN CCMS. POWLES DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT WE COULD BE DIRECTLY HELPFUL AT THE PRESENT TIME. THIS IS AN INTERNAL UK PROBLEM THAT WOULD AFFECT NOT JUST CCMS, BUT UK INVOLVEMENT IN ALL INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES DOING ENVIRONMENTAL WORK. ANY INTERVENTION BEFORE THE QUESTION OF PRIORITIES IS FORMALLY RAISED IN LONDON MIGHT EMBARASS THE UK REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCLOUGH WHO STRONGLY SUPPORTS CCMS. THE UK DELEGATION HAS NOT DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH ANY OTHER DELEGATION SINCE IT DID NOT WISH TO CREATE A "CRISIS" FOR CCMS.

4. IN CONCLUDING, POWLES SAID THAT THE UK, ESPECIALLY THE UK MISSION TO NATO, WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CCMS.HE WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE MIGHT BE A WIDENING GAP BETWEEN UK VERBAL SUPPORT AND ITS ACTUAL INVOLVEMENT, E.G. WILLINGNESS TO LEAD NEW PILOT STUDIES. IF LONDON DECIDED TO REVIEW ITS PRIORITIES, EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED U.S. COMMITMENT TO CCMS WOULD BE VALUABLE "AMMUNITION" IN FIGHT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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MAINTAIN ACTIVE UK PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMITTEE.BENNETT

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